**Regular Meeting Minutes – Development Authority of Walton County**

Date: 8:30 a.m., Monday, January 27, 2025

Location: 132 E. Spring Street, Monroe, Georgia, 30655 - Conference room

Board Members Present: Morris Jordan (Chairman) Skip Baliles Bettye Ray Melinda Dally David Thompson Neal Jackson

Others Present: Shane Short, Executive Director; Ben McDaniel; Dessa Morris; Jami Cash; Chris Atkinson, Attorney; John Ward

1. **Welcome and Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. **Appointment of Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary –** The following slate of officers were approved on a motion by B. Ray, second by D. Thompson, which passed unanimously: Chair – Morris Jordan; Vice Chair – Neal Jackson; Secretary – Tom Carter.
3. **Adoption of Agenda** –The Board adopted the agenda on a motion by S. Baliles, second by B. Ray, which passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of Minutes –** Minutes for the December 9, 2024, meeting were presented. The Board approved the Minutes on a motion by N. Jackson, second by S. Baliles, which passed unanimously.
5. **Approval of Financials** **–** Financials from month ending 12/31/2024 were approved on a motion by D. Thompson, second by M. Dally, which passed unanimously.
6. **Old Business –** 
   * 1. Rivian Update – S. Short stated that Rivian received a $6.6 billion loan from the federal government; loan requires start by 2026.
     2. Legislative Breakfast – S. Short discussed the legislative breakfast held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, and believes it will be an annual event.
     3. Ben McDaniel, Vice President of Economic Development, was introduced by S. Short.
7. **New Business –**
   * 1. Consideration of funding Be Pro Be Proud – S. Short discussed the program, and the request made to Walton EMC to sponsor; if EMC does not sponsor, the DAWC would be sponsor at cost of $15,000. The Board approved sponsorship, if needed, on a motion by S. Baliles, second by N. Jackson, which passed unanimously.
     2. Consideration of partnering with the Peters Family on Due Diligence – S. Short discussed the request (Peters property adjacent to Sailfish – data center property); the Board voted to deny the request on a motion by D. Thompson, second by N. Jackson, which passed unanimously.
8. **Walton Works Report** – D. Morris and J. Cash discussed various initiatives and events, including Newton County participating in a wage/benefit study; Regional job fair in March 2025; workforce Wednesday; year in review (handout).

1. **Executive Director Report –** S. Short discussed the data center in Social Circle (Sailfish). S. Short discussed a recommended a facilitated work session with Social Circle City Council and Social Circle Development Authority.
2. **Announcements/Other Business** – None.
3. **Executive Session** – None.
4. **Adjourn** –The Board adjourned at 9:42 a.m. on a motion by S. Baliles, second by D. Thompson, which passed unanimously.